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REPUBLICAN WHIP

Health Care Summit Rapid Response #9:

--“Mr. Boehner, the law of the land is that there is no public funding of abortions and there is no public funding of abortions in this bill.” --

Speaker Pelosi is correct, in that the current, long-standing policy in our country is that elective abortion may not be funded with federal dollars. **In contradiction with all federal health care programs (FEHBP, SCHIP, Medicaid, etc.), however, the president’s health care proposal would mean federal funding for elective abortion.**

The Senate bill, on which the president based his proposal, strips the Stupak-Pitts Amendment (passed the House with 64 Democrat votes) which would have continued a long-standing prohibition of federal funding of elective abortion. The Democrats’ Senate proposal continues—and even expands—pro-abortion components of the Senate bill. Here’s how...

- Funds abortion through Community Health Centers, and increases the funding from \$7B to \$11B. The new funds will not have to go through the annual Labor / HHS Appropriations bill, so Hyde doesn’t apply.
- Establishes system of “multi-state” plans that would be administered by the Office of Personnel Management (OPM). Only one of the plans will be subject to temporary, appropriations rider-based restrictions on abortion coverage. The rest will be allowed or required to cover elective abortions.
- Subsidizes private health insurance that covers abortion through the premium-subsidy tax credits program. It will force enrollees to pay for other people’s abortions through a monthly payment into a dedicated abortion fund.
- Ties limits on abortion funding to annual appropriations language (Hyde), with respect to Indian health programs and insurance subsidy programs. Which, in effect, forces the pro-life side to win annually or lose all restrictions on the newly authorized programs.
- Contains provisions that could allow federal political appointees to require even non-subsidized private plans to cover elective abortion. The Senate bill contains a provision preventing overtly defining abortion as an “essential benefit” but provides other mandate authorities that could be used for the same purpose.

Bottom Line: The Senate’s abortion language permits federal dollars to be spent on elective abortion, in a drastic change from long-standing federal policy. Funds collected by the government become federal funds when the government assumes control of them (see this Congressional Research Service [memo](#) dated October 9, 2009). No “segregation” of these funds changes the fact that they are still spent by a federal agency that, by definition, can only spend federal funds.